

This guidance follows the Board's October 20, 2020 meeting and vote concerning the surrender of regular mail ballots on or before the November 3, 2020 election ("Election Day").

Voters who apply for and receive a mail ballot may return it for certification and tabulation by either 1) mailing it to the Board of Elections in the self-addressed, postage paid envelope provided with the ballot, or 2) depositing the ballot, in the sealed certification envelope, in any of the Mail Ballot Drop Boxes currently available and located in each municipality and also at the Board of Elections. In addition to the Mail Ballot Drop Boxes currently available 24 hours/ 7 days per week, additional Drop Boxes will be available on Election Day at each and every polling place.

The deadline for applying for a mail ballot was October 13, 2020. Thereafter, a voter can still apply for and receive a mail ballot under the emergency provisions set forth under Chapter 20 of Title 17 of the General Laws. This allows for a person to apply for and receive an emergency mail ballot at each of the local boards of canvassers during the last 20 days leading up to Election Day.

Upon approval of an application for a mail ballot, the voter's name is flagged on the Central Voter Registration System in order to prevent that voter from casting both a mail ballot and a regular ballot on Election Day at the polling place. In the event that a person receives a mail ballot, but no longer wishes to cast it, he or she may surrender the ballot at his or her local canvassing authority. Upon doing so, the voter will be permitted to cast a provision ballot in person at his or her designated polling place on Election Day.

A voter cannot surrender his mail ballot in exchange for an emergency mail ballot to be cast at the local canvassing authority. Neither the General Laws nor the Board's regulations allow for the substitution of one form of mail ballot for another: Once the mail

ballot application is accepted, the voter can either return the completed mail ballot for tabulation, or surrender it in order to vote in person on Election Day at his or he designated polling place. Given the proximity of the election, and the need to ensure the integrity and security of the ballot, it is not administratively possible to substitute different forms of mail ballots.